

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC DRUG BUST HITS TWO SANTA CLARA COUNTY BARS LIQUOR LICENSES IN JEOPARDY

San Jose – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) will be suspending or revoking the liquor licenses of two Santa Clara County bars following a nearly one-year investigation into illegal drug activities.

ABC, assisted by the Santa Clara County Specialized Enforcement Team (SCCSET), the Sunnyvale Police Department, and the Los Gatos Police Department, concluded the investigation with multiple arrests at Bogarts Lounge on Wildwood Avenue in Sunnyvale, and the Goguens Last Call bar on N. Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos.

During the investigation, an ABC undercover investigator made a total of eight purchases of methamphetamines at Bogarts. The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office issued five arrest warrants.

On July 15, 2004, three people were taken into custody, including a bartender/manager who referred the investigator to a patron for the purchase of narcotics and who was under the influence and in possession of methamphetamine at the time of her arrest; a patron who was on parole and sold meth to the undercover investigator on at least two occasions; and another patron also on drug charges. A fourth person who sold to the investigator five times was already in custody when the warrant was served.

A total of five arrest warrants were issued for Goguens Last Call where the investigator purchased meth from three patrons and two bartenders. The sweep by the multi-agency operation on July 15th, resulted in two arrests at the location, and outstanding warrants for three others. The two arrested were bartenders, one of whom referred the undercover investigator to two patrons for meth, and the other who sold the drug to the investigator on two occasions.

The two bars were connected in that the undercover investigator was working the Bogarts Lounge when a patron informed the investigator of illegal narcotic activity at Goguens. The SCCSET was in the process of conducting its own investigation of the later bar at the time.

ABC is expected to file accusations against the two bars pending a review of the investigative reports. Depending on past violations, and the circumstances involving the individual cases, the Department could suspend or permanently revoke the establishment's liquor licenses. A decision on administrative action could come within the next month.